

Court Connection

The Newsletter of the
Western District of NC
Bankruptcy Court

A Fond Farewell to Gerri Crockett

by George Hodges & Craig Whitley, Bankruptcy Judges

It is with a good deal of wistfulness that we announce the retirement of our good friend and court clerk, Gerri Crockett. Gerri has announced that she will be leaving us at the end of August.

Although it has been 6 ½ years, it seems like it was only yesterday that Gerri came to our court. At the time, Gerri was serving as Clerk of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana. Rarely can a bankruptcy court entice the clerk of a higher court into its employ. Thus, we would like to credit Gerri's interest in the Western District to our amazing wit, charm and good looks. We would like to, but no one would believe us.

Come to think of it, maybe Gerri was just looking for a challenge. It's certain she wasn't just looking to become a clerk. At that point she had already worked as Clerk of Court in the Southern District of Indiana and as District Court Clerk in the Northern District of Indiana. It is equally true that Gerri's interest was not due to the novelty of working for a bankruptcy court. She had already been Chief Deputy Clerk for the Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of California (1987-1991). And it wasn't like she was hoping to broaden her federal court experience. Before this, Gerri had been Clerk's Program Specialist for Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and Administrative Analyst for the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia. She had chaired both the FJC Advisory Committee on District Court Clerk Education and the Joint Education and Training Advisory Committee, served on the board of the Federal Court Clerks' Association, and been a part of several national and regional court organizations, including the Electronic Case Files Study Project, Expanded Leadership Development Planning Committee, the District Court Clerks' Advisory Committee, and the Human Resources Division Advisory Group and Systems Modernization Group. In short, she had done it all.

With her background, we expected Gerri to bring professional management skills and an insider's knowledge of the federal courts. She did. Her professional experience was invaluable. Over the next few years our case load burgeoned, court resources declined, and the Western District entered into the unknown waters of CM/ECF test court. Despite these challenges, under Gerri's leadership the Clerk's office operations improved. Staff began to mold together in a cohesive unit. Morale improved. Efficiency improved. Court performance measures climbed.

This would have been impressive enough. However, it was not Gerri's obvious skill that made her such a success with us. It was her manner. Gerri always brought a smile to the office; a deep concern for her staff; and an honest interest in those around her, professionally and as people. Gerri treated her employees with love and respect.

Having worked side by side with her, we can unequivocally state that in all things, Gerri was a pro. It would be hard to overestimate her value to this Court.

But here we are. In the best of retirement traditions, Gerri says she and husband Howard intend to buy an RV. After rolling off to see the world, Gerri and Howard say they plan to become snow birds— spending summers in Washington State and winters in the Texas Hill Country. We have suggested to Gerri that this is way off the accepted snowbird migration route—Florida to the NC mountains— but we understand that the Crockett kids live in Seattle and the Lone Star State, so maybe this is OK.

In closing, we wish to express our most heartfelt thanks to Gerri for all that she has done for this court and for the federal courts of this country. As she and Howard move forward into retirement, in all things we wish them Godspeed---and a clean title.

- The Judges

David Weich selected Clerk

by George Hodges, Bankruptcy Judge

The court has selected David Weich as Bankruptcy Clerk to succeed Gerri Crockett, effective September 1, 2004. David has been serving the court as Chief Deputy Clerk since December 2001. Prior to that, he was Chief Deputy in the District Court Clerk's office in the Southern District of Indiana in Indianapolis. David also served in the clerk's offices in Oregon and Florida. David has a B.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso and served in the U.S. Navy as a pilot.

Contents

Chamber's Skinny

A Fond Farewell

page 1

Clerk's Report

Good Bye

page 2

Local Rules

page 2

CM/ECF

Helpful Hints

page 3



Court Connection

Good-Bye and Thank You

by Gerri Crockett, Clerk of Court

As you may already know, I am retiring at the end of August. This has been an incredibly difficult decision, however, my husband has been waiting for this day so that we can "play" together. My 6 ½ years as clerk of court has flown so quickly, it is hard to believe as I approach my 62nd birthday that it is time to move on into the next phase of my life.

I have to say my time here has been the best I have ever experienced in my total professional career. I can't describe how much I love this job and the people I work with. I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity to work with the Judges and their staff, Clerk's staff, Trustees, BA's office and the Bar. Everyone has been supportive and helpful. This truly came to light during the incredible changes we all experienced during the past 6 1/2 years. The greatest change to our office was the introduction of CM/ECF. This was difficult, exhausting, as well as energizing for everyone. We all worked together to make our court the best in the nation.

I am extremely proud to have served as Clerk of Court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina for these past years.

Thank you everyone for everything.

Local Rules

by George Hodges

This message appears on the court's website as an introduction and invitation to comment on the court's proposed revised local rules:

Following this message is a link to the proposed set of revised Local Rules for your review and comment. The purpose of these revisions is to update the Local Rules to comply with CM/ECF practices and, in some instances, to comply with our actual practices. We would appreciate the benefit of your comments and suggestions on these revisions. We will also accept suggestions for further revisions, but will save them for our next general rules update. Please submit your comments by August 15, 2004 to clerk@ncwb.uscourts.gov. We expect to issue the final revised Local Rules effective September 1. Thank you for your assistance.

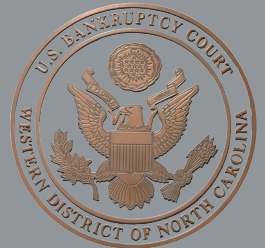
www.ncwb.uscourts.gov/localRules.html

Before visiting the revised Local Rules, please make sure you are running the current version of your preferred web browser. Internet Explorer's current version is 6.0, and Netscape's current version is 7.1. You can find the most recent versions at www.microsoft.com and www.netscape.com, respectively.

Relocation of Charlotte Chapter 13 Trustee's Office

On June 28th, 2004 the Charlotte Chapter 13 Trustee's Office relocated to **Suite 101, 4600 Park Road** (the Park Abbey building).

Please check www.ncwb.uscourts.gov for more information on this move.



U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of NC

P.O. Box 34189
Charlotte, NC
28234-4189

Tel. 704.350.7500
Fax 704.344.6403

100 Otis Street
Room 112
Asheville, NC
28801

Tel. 828.771.7300
Fax 828.271.4150

newsletter@ncbankruptcy.org



Training Tips & Helpful Hints

by Robin Felts, Trainer

Revised Local Form 4 – Ch. 13 Plan Summary

Local Form 4 – Ch. 13 Plan Summary has been revised and is available on the court's website: www.ncwb.uscourts.gov and ECF login locations. A **red-lined** version reflecting the changes is also available. Click on the accompanying link to update this form.

Wilmington, NC v. Wilmington, DE addresses

Use caution when preparing a creditor mailing list: If a creditor address is to the wrong state and the bar code, address and zip code do not match up to the correct state, the post office will not be able to deliver the mail to the correct state. This will result in the mail being returned to the sender.

Debtor Information

It is not necessary to include the phone number, fax number or e-mail information on a Voluntary Petition. When opening a new bankruptcy case, these areas can be left blank.

Trustee/Attorney ECF Logins

Portions of the ECF menus are different for the Trustee and Attorney logins, and logging out of one user account and into the other may cause some confusion. If a document is being filed and this happens, "Reload the Current Page" to refresh the page and regain access to the proper menu.

Credit Card Authorization

The court requires a current credit card authorization to be on file with the court at all times. The ECF Attorney Training Registration Form requires this authorization as a prerequisite to obtaining a live ECF login and password.

Motions for Relief from Stay – Real Property Descriptions

See Local Rule 4001-1 (a) (3). When filing a motion for relief from stay electronically, for docketing purposes, repeat the real property description from the body of the motion into the text box. This will insure that the motion and subsequent order will be linked correctly.

Motions – Hearing not scheduled

Motions not ready to be scheduled for hearing can be docketed and filed, attaching the pdf image, but not a notice of hearing. Select the appropriate motion event with Hearing. The Notice of Hearing can be bypassed. The docket text will reflect only the motion. When ready for scheduling, a Notice of Opportunity or Notice of Hearing can be filed, linking it to the Motion document number.

